

The Benson Golf Club

Chipper

April 1st, 2008

From the Desk of the President

Greetings! With a cold harsh winter behind us, it is once again time to look forward to spring and a new golf season. As the snow melts and more and more green grass appears, the thought of dusting off that old golf bag and clubs only becomes more exciting! Benson Golf Club welcomes past members and looks forward to meeting and getting to know anyone wanting to join and become a new member.

Will and his staff have a great schedule of events lined up for the summer. With many wedding banquets, reunions, and golf tournaments on tap, the clubhouse looks to be a busy place with lots of fun-filled action.

The course will also be faced with many challenges including high fuel costs, equipment needs, and clubhouse repairs. With hard work from our staff and continuing support from all our members the course should be able to endure these challenges and have the course ready for a great year of golf.

We look forward to seeing you and having a great year of golf here at the Benson Golf Club.

BGC President
Jerry Dahl

In the Pro Shop

Things in the pro shop are well under way this spring. We have a couple of projects we are working on along with restocking our inventory for the new season. Beginning the first of April the hours in the pro shop will be 9am to 6pm weekdays. Once the course opens, the hours will be 8 a.m. to sunset 7 days a week.

We are looking at replacing the ceiling tiles on the south end of the pro shop. They have been sagging lower each year for the past few and we want to get them fixed before they start to fall. We may do some adjusting of the lights and mirrors at the same time.

We will be adding some new styles to both our women's and men's clothing inventory for the spring. We have also added some new equipment including bags, balls, gloves and other accessories to the shop. Stop in and check out what we have to offer or talk to Will if you would like to place a special order, including logo balls for your company.

The pro shop is a great place to shop for any occasion including birthdays, Mothers and Fathers day or to help with some of your early Christmas shopping. Stop by and take a look.

Pro Shop Committee

2008 Tournament Schedule

It's finally golf season and you know what that means... tournament time. We are returning all of our great tournaments to the course again this year. We have our tournaments run by the course, as well as those run by our members. Take a look at the schedule and try to play in one, it can be a lot of fun.

Course Run Tournaments

Benson Shortstop- July 6th

Senior Tournament – Aug 4th

Club Championship – Aug 17th

Member Appreciation – Aug 17th

Member-Guest Tournament – Aug 23rd – 24th

Member Run Tournaments

Hanny's Tournaments – June 14th and September 13th

Bigg Dogg Tournaments – June 7th and September 7th

Jim Mills Tournament – August 2nd

Hospital Auxiliary Tournament – August 10th

Tournament Committee

Around the Club

The Social Membership Committee is looking forward to a year of encouraging members and their friends to participate in events at your Golf Club. So far, Anne Hawley, Bob Orr, Jeena Hughes and Kay Harrison are working on the committee. We welcome anyone interested, to join us and bring their ideas for activating our membership and utilizing our great course, clubhouse, and staff!

The first event is coming right up! We're hosting a "Taste of the Benson Golf Club" on Friday, April 18, starting at 5PM. We're planning a "happy hour" event where members, non-members, friends, and the community can gather at the clubhouse and sample some of what our kitchen has to offer. We hope those who sample Chet's specialties at the kick-off will remember the great food and atmosphere and choose the golf club when booking meetings or events. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 18 – right after work!

We are asking that you contact Will with your email address. It's a timely and inexpensive way to keep everyone in the loop on what's happening at our golf club. We will drop you quick reminders to keep you up to date on what's happening at the golf club so you won't miss anything!

We plan to do three theme Friday nights this summer. These events are fun and a great night to invite friends to play because the scramble format is so forgiving for everyone. If you'd like to organize one of the events, contact Will.

While the numbers are declining, we still have hundreds of members. If we can encourage members, friends and the community to participate in our events and to utilize the food and meeting facilities at our golf club, we can help keep our membership costs down.

Social / Membership Committee

On the Course

Another season is starting, and it looks to be a good start to a good grass growing year. I have gone out to check on the course between snowfalls, and it seems we may have a quick green-up once the snow is gone.

Since the winter has been somewhat uneventful, I would like to take this opportunity to answer a question we often hear. Why do you quit mowing the greens in the fall?

Our greens consist of a Poa Annuua (Poa)/Bentgrass mixture. Both grasses are somewhat susceptible to harsh, cold weather which can lead to "winter kill". We can prevent this by insulating the lowest part of the grass tiller called the crowns. Ways to protect the crown can be any of the following: Green Covers, heavy coating of sand, chemical applications, higher mowing heights, and snow cover.

Today's chemical applications have far outperformed older methods such as heavy sand topdressing and green covers, which can also lead to snowmold. We have been utilizing this method for the past three years and have found great success, especially on our number 8 and 18 greens.

The cheapest method is higher mowing heights. As the season winds down, we raise the height on our mowers gradually, and reduce the number of times we mow per week. We start to do this once the overnight lows dip down below freezing to prevent the plant from going into shock. This same routine is used in the spring until about May.

These methods I feel are best suited to our course and we have found success with them. Next time you are out in the spring or fall and you miss that putt short, remember your sacrifice now means a better course for you in the summer.

Sally

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